

Interim

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year

1942.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff.

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(* Temporary Appointments.)

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County Offices,
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Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing
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Woodside,
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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the interim Annual Report for the year 1942. The Report which confirms to Circular 2773 of the Ministry of Health has been greatly abbreviated.

I have to thank Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Designated Officer for assistance in the preparation of this Report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the support which the Council has given me, especially in connection with the diphtheria immunisation scheme. The health of the District has remained remarkably good in spite of the disturbance of normal life produced by the war.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG.

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1943.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942)	3,335
Rateable Value	£41,503
Sum represented by a penny rate	£184.8.4

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

<u>Live Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	15.1
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	30.2
(Live & Still)	
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births.
Heading No. 29 ...	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Heading No. 30 ...	Other Puerperal Causes	1	5.2

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	41.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	33.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	153.8

SECTION B. - GENERAL SUPERVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:Laboratory Facilities:-

The number of specimens examined by the County and City Public Health Laboratory during the year are shown below:-

Swabs	238
Faeces	2
Sputum	34
Milk	4
Water Chemical Examination	5
Bacteriological "	62

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SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water: Sixty-seven samples of water were sent for examination and of these samples 47 were found to be satisfactory and 20 proved to be unsatisfactory.

Drainage & Sewerage:

Six drains were provided for existing dwellings during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:Inspections:-

Bakehouses	12
Building Byelaws	37
Drains Tested (a) Hydraulic Tests	10
(b) Smoke Tests	2
Cowsheds and Dairies	219
Factories with Mechanised Power	7
Factories without Mechanised Power	29
Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	nil
Housing (Other Acts)	83
Investigations re Infectious Disease	18
Nuisances	19
Overcrowding	nil
Slaughterhouses	nil
Water Samples taken - Chemical Examination	5
Bacteriological Examination	52

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Statutory under Other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil

Summary of Defects Remedied Etc:-(a) Water Supplies:

New Services from Ross-on-Wye Water Undertaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Wells provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Samples taken - Chemical examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Sources from which more than one sample was taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Maximum number of Samples taken from one source	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

(b) Notifiable Disease:-

Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of Lots of Bedding and Bedclothing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Shelters disinfected re Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(c) Drainage and Sewage Disposal:

New Drains provided for existing houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

(d) Milk and Dairies Order 1926:

Cowsheds Improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
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(e) Housing Acts:

Houses Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

School Closures:

Garway	...	29.12.41. - 2. 1.42.	...	Chickenpox.
Bridstow	...	12. 1.42. - 16. 1.42.	...	Chickenpox.

SECTION D. - HOUSING:

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	47
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	56
Number of dwelling houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation	...	...	...	1

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
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SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:Milk Supply:-

There were 287 persons registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 at the end of the Year.

All premises are regularly inspected, 219 such inspections having been made during the year.

SECTION F. - INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES:

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1942:-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	19	-	3
Whooping Cough	7	-	-
Diphtheria	4	4	-
Scarlet Fever	12	4	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	3	-
Measles	43	-	-
Erysipelas	4	1	-
Anterio Polio Myelitis	1	-	-

Analysis of Total Notified Cases according to Age:-

Disease.	Age Groups.												Totals.
	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65 and over	
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	3	2	4	2	3	19
Whooping Cough	1	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	1	-	4	-	2	-	-	1	1	12
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	-	-	7	10	9	11	2	2	2	-	-	-	43
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
Anterio Polio Myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	1	2	12	13	10	18	8	10	7	5	3	4	93

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1942:-

The Department continued its efforts to secure immunisation against diphtheria of all children residing in the area, with a certain amount of success.

The Council with the co-operation of the practitioners in the area, inaugurated a scheme whereby free immunisation was available from the family doctor and this scheme has helped greatly. Much assistance in bringing the facilities available to the notice of parents was also obtained from head teachers, district nurses and the Womens Voluntary Service. These efforts resulting in 181 children under five years of age and 474 children 5 - 15 years completing courses of diphtheria prophylactic during the year, a total of 655. If the average number of children under 15 years residing in the District is taken as 3,500, approximately one sixth were presumably immunised.

Only one case of diphtheria occurred in a child under 15 years of age and this child had not received any injections of prophylactic.

At the end of the year, it was estimated that 34% of the children under 5 years had received courses of prophylactic and 48% of those aged 5 - 15 years. Whilst the percentage figures are an improvement, they cannot be regarded as satisfactory - at the minimum 80% in both groups should be the aim. It is doubtful if any higher figure can be obtained under the voluntary system.

Another feature of the present unsatisfactory position is that the proportion of children under school age who are immunised is lower than that for children of school age. In connection with this it must be remembered that diphtheria is more likely to be fatal in children under 5 years of age than in the older children.

SCABIES:-

That scabies occurred more frequently amongst the residents during 1942 than in those years immediately preceding the War, is shown by the fact that 17 cases were brought to the notice of the Department. As the disease is not notifiable, this figure probably understates the facts.

Tuberculosis:

At the end of 1941 there were 36 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 26 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary. During the year 1942, 11 cases were added - 9 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. Ten cases were removed from the register during the year - 9 pulmonary 1 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st. December, 1942, 37 cases remained on the register 26 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1943.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
15+	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
25+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

